To:	Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject:	RE: Alternative preferential voting system [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date:	Thursday, 12 December 2013 3:34:13 PM

To :-
The Committee EM [Reps]

  Like so many others [Tony Abbott & Co included] I am
aghast at the potential chaos that is likely to prevail as a consequence of
the antiquated preferential [proportional representation] system that leaves
a political party with a clear mandate likely to be impeded by a fragmented
Senate. The voting system requires a total review and there is a very simple
and accurate alternative.

As a semi retired professional and almost octogenarian I'm reminded of a
simple preferential voting system that was used by the Apex Club of
Australia more than 50 years ago. As an example of the system suppose there
were 12 candidates competing for 6 board member positions. Ballot papers
were completed by the voters on 1 to 12 basis and a spreadsheet prepared
listing the candidates and the numerical votes that they attracted [all the
1's , 2's ,and 3's etc.].. The twelve columns were added up and an immediate
order of preference was evident. Obviously the lowest in aggregate number
was the most popular selection from which the preferred progression then
followed. Such a system would extinguish completely the minority wannabes.

The same system could easily be adopted for Senate purposes [and yes a
single marked vote for a particular party could confer a pre- ordained
order of preference]. If such a system were adopted the election result
would be known by 7:00 pm. on election evenings if not before and the
composition of the Senate would also be similarly available.

It probably reeks of too much simplicity and common sense to be adopted but
I live in hopeful expectation. By the way why not contract all the TAB
agencies around the country to act as polling booths. Their existing
computer systems would cope with appropriate pre issued voting stationery.
The results could probably be available by 10 past 6. Timothy Green might
have to throw away his crystal ball. I have sent a copy of this letter to
the Australian Electoral Commission, who knows somebody might even read it.
Yours faithfully
Jim Callaghan